

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (cancelled)

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented)

The process of claim 27 wherein said drying agent is selected from the group consisting of ash, limestone, coal and cellulose containing fuels.

5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented)

The process of claim 27 wherein said water is present in an amount of at least 20% by weight of said dry ash.

7. (original)

The process of claim 6 wherein said simultaneous grinding is carried out in a mill having positive transport capacity.

8. (previously presented)

The process of claim 27 wherein said water is present in an amount of at least 30% by weight of the dry ash.

9. (original)

The process of claim 8 wherein simultaneous grinding is carried out in a mill which does not have positive transport capacity.

10. (original)

The process of claim 7 wherein said process further comprises the step of mixing said simultaneously ground hydrated ash and water and said added drying agent in a mixer.

11. (original)

The process of claim 10 further including the step of pelletizing said ground hydrated ash and drying agent.

12. (original)

The process of claim 10 wherein said drying agent is present in an amount to absorb water from said mixture such that said mixed product will produce an agglomerate so that the calcium present in said agglomerate is suitable for use in the sulphation reaction at the surface area of such agglomerate and internally of said agglomerate.

13. (original)

The process of claim 12 wherein said agglomerate comprises a mixture of said ground hydrated ash and a combustible drying agent.

14. (original)

The process of claim 13 wherein said agglomerate of said simultaneously ground and hydrated ash and drying agent forms an agglomerate which is crumbly.

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented)

The process of claim 29 wherein said drying agent is selected from the group consisting of combustible materials.

18. (previously presented)

The process of claim 29 wherein said drying agent is selected from the group consisting of ash, limestone, coal and cellulose containing fuels.

19. (previously presented)

The process of claim 29 wherein water is present in said mixture of ash and coal in an excess amount greater than the stoichiometric amount required to hydrate said ash.

20. (previously presented)

The process of claim 19 wherein said water is present in an amount of at least 20% by weight of said ash on a dry basis.

21. (previously presented)

The process of claim 19 wherein said simultaneous grinding is carried out in a mill having positive transport capacity.

22. (previously presented)

The process of claim 29 wherein said water is present in an amount of at least 30% by weight of the ash on a dry basis.

23. (previously presented)

The process of claim 29 wherein water is present in an amount of at least 33 1/3% by weight of ash on a dry basis.

24. (previously presented)

The process of claim 29 wherein water is present in an amount of at least 50% by weight of ash on a dry basis.

25. (previously presented)

The process of claim 29 wherein said mixture of water, coal and ash is pelletized after said grinding.

26. (previously presented)

The process of claim 29 wherein said mixture of water, coal, ash and drying agent is pelletized after adding said drying agent.

27. (previously presented)

A process for reactivating calcium containing ash and feeding said reactivated ash to a combustor so that said reactivated ash may be used as a sulphur absorbing agent, said process comprising:

- i) obtaining a quantity of ash to be activated;
- ii) obtaining a quantity of water;
- iii) grinding said ash and water to simultaneously grind and hydrate said quantity of ash with said quantity of water, said simultaneous grinding being carried out at atmospheric pressure and without addition of heat,

wherein said process additionally includes adding a drying agent after completion of said simultaneous grinding and hydrating,

and wherein said water is present in an excess amount greater than the stoichiometric amount required to hydrate said ash, and

iv) feeding said reactivated ash to a combustor.

28. (previously presented)

A process for reactivating calcium containing ash and feeding said reactivated ash to a combustor so that said reactivated ash may be used as a sulphur absorbing agent, said process comprising:

i) obtaining a quantity of ash to be activated;

ii) obtaining a quantity of water;

iii) grinding said ash and water to simultaneously grind and hydrate said quantity of ash with said quantity of water, said simultaneous grinding being carried out at atmospheric pressure and without addition of heat,

wherein said process additionally includes adding a drying agent after completion of said simultaneous grinding and hydrating,

and wherein said drying agent is selected from the group consisting of combustible materials, and

iv) feeding said reactivated ash to a combustor.

29. (previously presented)

A process of mixing wet fine coal with ash to form a feedstock to be fed to a combustor comprising:

obtaining a supply of wet fine coal having excess water therewith,

obtaining a supply of calcium containing ash,

simultaneously grinding a mixture comprising said wet fine coal and said ash to hydrate said ash at atmospheric pressure and without addition of heat and using said ground mixture as a feedstock to a combustor

and wherein said process additionally includes adding a drying agent after completion of said simultaneous grinding and hydrating.

30. (previously presented)

The process of claim 9 wherein said process further comprises the step of mixing said simultaneously ground hydrated ash and water and said added drying agent in a mixer.

31. (previously presented)

The process of claim 30 further including the step of pelletizing said ground hydrated ash and drying agent.

32. (previously presented)

The process of claim 30 wherein said drying agent is present in an amount to absorb water from said mixture such that said mixed product will produce an agglomerate so that the calcium present in said agglomerate is suitable for use in the sulphation reaction at the surface area of such agglomerate and internally of said agglomerate.

33. (previously presented)

The process of claim 32 wherein said agglomerate comprises a mixture of said ground hydrated ash and a combustible drying agent.

34. (previously presented)

The process of claim 33 wherein said agglomerate of said simultaneously ground and hydrated ash and drying agent forms an agglomerate which is crumbly.

35. (new)

A process for reactivating ash for feeding to a combustor so that said reactivated ash may be used as a sulphur absorbing agent, said process comprising:

- i) obtaining a quantity of ash to be activated;
- ii) obtaining a quantity of water;
- iii) grinding said ash and water to simultaneously grind and hydrate said quantity of ash with said quantity of water, said simultaneous grinding being carried out at atmospheric pressure and without addition of heat.

36. (new)

The process of claim 35 wherein said process additionally includes adding a drying agent after completion of said simultaneous grinding and hydrating.

37. (new)

The process of claim 36 wherein said drying agent is selected from the group consisting of combustible materials.

38. (new)

The process of claim 36 wherein said water is present in an excess amount greater than the stoichiometric amount required to hydrate said ash.

39. (new)

A process for reactivating calcium containing ash and feeding said reactivated ash to a combustor so that said reactivated ash may be used as a sulphur absorbing agent, said process comprising:

obtaining a quantity of ash to be activated,
obtaining a supply of wet fine coal having excess water therewith,
grinding said ash and said wet fine coal to simultaneously grind and hydrate said quantity of ash with said quantity of wet fine coal,
said simultaneous grinding being carried out at atmospheric pressure and without additional heat, and wherein
said mixture of reactivated ash and wet fine coal is fed to a combustor.

40. (new)

The process of claim 39 wherein said process additionally includes adding a drying agent after completion of said simultaneous grinding and hydrating.